

For a summary of the roundtable, [click here](#).

Washington, D.C.-- Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore) will join with over 60 experts from Federal agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations, and the insurance industry on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars for a roundtable discussion about the rising cost of natural disasters and the Federal government's role in preventing damages. Seventy-five percent of American households today are at risk for one or more natural disasters – from floods, storms, earthquakes, or fire.

“Resilience to natural hazards is an important component of a livable community,” said Blumenauer. “Communities today are expanding into ex-urban and rural areas that are more susceptible to natural disasters. This dramatically increases the number of people living in harm's way and creates major environmental and economic challenges.

Last fall, the California wildfire tragedy highlighted a critical component of the increasing costs and damages of natural disasters as more people build in high risk areas.

It was a textbook example of the difference that good local planning and zoning, when properly applied and enforced, can make in protecting lives, protecting property, and avoiding future problems.”

Featured speakers at the roundtable include: **Roger Kennedy**, Former Director, National Park Service;

**Janet Abramovitz;**

Author of

Unnatural Disasters

;

**Trey Reid**

; Deputy Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency;

**Harvey G. Ryland**

; President, Institute for Business & Home Safety;

**Jim Schwab**

, American Planning Association; and

**Andre LeDuc**

, Coordinator, Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup.

At the conclusion of the roundtable, Blumenauer and others will be available to discuss what actions the Federal government can take to reduce damage to life and property from natural disasters.

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**WHO: □ □ □ □ □ Representative Earl Blumenauer and other participants**

**WHAT: □ □ □ □ Press Availability following Roundtable Discussion “Disaster Mitigation: The Challenge of Natural Disasters for Federal, State, and □ Local Government Policy”**

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**WHERE:** Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars,

**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

One Woodrow Wilson Plaza

1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC

**WHEN:** 12:30 PM

Tuesday, April 27